

# WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,  
and workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, July 16, 2004*

## AGGRESSIVE SPEEDING REACHES ANOTHER LOW MARK IN DC

Last January, when the MPDC began deploying photo radar in the 2800 block of New York Avenue, NE, more than 1 in 4 motorists—28 percent—were aggressively speeding. By June, the aggressive speeding rate had plummeted to about 1 in 10 motorists (11 percent). On DC-295—the site of at least two speeding-related fatalities in 2003—the aggressive speeding rate was cut in half in one photo radar zone during the same six-month period. And in the 3600 block of Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE, the rate of aggressive speeding dropped from 22 percent of all motorists to less than 10 percent, and the average speed of all vehicles on this 25-mph roadway fell from 31 to 27 mph. The progress in these and other enforcement zones helped to push aggressive speeding in DC to an all-time low during June. Citywide, just 4.4 percent of the more than 1.3 million vehicles monitored by photo radar were found to be traveling above the threshold speed established for the program. That is down from an aggressive speeding rate of 4.7 percent in both April and May 2004—the previous low months. In July 2001, by contrast, DC's aggressive speeding rate was almost 31 percent. In addition to reducing the percentage of vehicles speeding aggressively, DC's photo radar program has helped to drive down average speeds on all roadways. In 25-mph zones, for example, average speeds of all vehicles have dropped from 35.5 mph to 26 mph over the past three years. On 50-mph highways, average speeds declined from 58 mph to 46 mph.

① Get the latest results on DC's photo radar program at:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speedresults\\_text.shtml](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speedresults_text.shtml)

① Now wrapping up its fifth year, DC's red-light camera program has cut red-light running violations by two-thirds at the 39 intersections with cameras. Details at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/redlight.shtml>

## ADDITIONAL PLANS ARE ANNOUNCED FOR DC'S CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL NIGHT OUT ON AUGUST 3

DC continues to gear up for its celebration of National Night Out, the 21st annual crime prevention event that will take place on August 3. Police and residents in all seven police districts will be holding a variety of events—block parties, neighborhood walks, open houses, softball games and the like—all designed to show their solidarity against crime and their commitment to safer neighborhoods. DC's observance of NNO will begin at 5 pm, with a kickoff event in the Naylor Gardens community of the Sixth District, in the 2700 block of 30th Street, SE. Elected leaders, police officers, community members and others will come together for an evening of food, music and partnerships. The celebration will continue throughout the evening in other, community-based events in neighborhoods across the District. Residents who are unable to participate in organized NNO activities are still encouraged to turn on exterior lights and spend some time outside on the evening of August 3, as a show of solidarity against crime and for neighborhood safety. Chief Ramsey pointed out that National Night Out comes at a time when DC's crime rate is down sharply, including a 25 percent reduction in homicides. "For DC, National Night Out is a time both to celebrate the successful police-community partnerships we have already forged in many neighborhoods and to develop new and strong partnerships in other areas of the city," the Chief said.

① Read the complete news release announcing NNO 2004 in DC at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2786>

① For information on NNO activities taking place in your neighborhood, go to:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/nno\\_04.shtml](http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/nno_04.shtml)

① Learn more about the history and goals of National Night Out at:  
<http://www.nationaltownwatch.org/nno/index.html>

## JUVENILE ARRESTED IN DOUBLE HOMICIDE IN SOUTHEAST

Two days after five people were shot – two fatally – in the 2900 block of Pomeroy Road, SE, the MPDC arrested a 17-year-old from Suitland, Maryland, in connection with the case. The shooting occurred at approximately 1:15 am on Sunday, July 11. Two teenage males from Southeast DC were killed, and the other three victims were injured from gunshot wounds. As a result of their investigation, MPDC detectives quickly obtained an arrest warrant. On July 13, a suspect was arrested without incident near the intersection of Wheeler Road and Wahler Place, SE. He was subsequently charged as an adult in DC Superior Court. The investigation is ongoing. Initial reports indicate that two men approached a group of males standing in the 2900 block of Pomeroy Road, SE, when one or both men fired into the group, before entering a dark-colored vehicle operated by a third subject. It is unknown at this time as to who the intended victims of the gunmen were.

## DC CREATES OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES

Mayor Anthony A. Williams has signed an order establishing the city's Office of Victim Services, the first Administrative-level office dedicated to issues affecting the victims of crime. The Office of Victim Services will serve three primary roles: 1) to represent the Administration on issues concerning victims; 2) to advocate on behalf of victims of crime on issues related to services, systems response, legislation and resource allocations at all levels of the government and community; and 3) to review, evaluate and make recommendations concerning the District's response to victims, outreach and education on victims' issues, capacity building for victims' services, training for responders and any legislation that affects victims of crime. Additionally, the office will plan, administer and monitor all victim-related funding for the District. The office is located within the office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice.

## NEWS & NOTES

**Progress Report on Use-of-Force Reforms.** The MPDC has issued its latest progress report on the implementation of the use-of-force reforms contained in the Department's Memorandum of Agreement with the US Department of Justice. This report covers the period from April through June 2004, which marks the beginning of the MPDC's fourth year of implementing the five-year MOA. View the progress report (in PDF) at [http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/pubs/pdf/FIT\\_progress\\_0704.pdf](http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/pubs/pdf/FIT_progress_0704.pdf).

**Chief To Participate in WHUR Town Hall.** Chief Ramsey will join other public safety and community leaders in a live town hall meeting on regional crime issues, hosted by WHUR 96.3-FM, from 6-7 pm on Friday, July 23. The moderator will be WHUR's Stephanie Gaines Bryant.

**Distracted Driving Law in Effect.** Motorists are reminded that talking on a hand-held mobile telephone while driving is now illegal in DC. Use of mobile phones with a hands-free accessory is allowed under the law. During the month of July, MPDC officers will be issuing warnings only. But beginning August 1, violators face a \$100 fine. Get details at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/distracteddriver.shtm>.

- ① Read the news release at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2782>
- ① Anyone with additional information about this case—or any homicide in DC—is encouraged to call police at (202) 727-9099. The MPDC offers a reward of up to \$25,000 for information leading to an arrest and conviction in any unsolved homicide in DC.

- ① Read the news release at:  
<http://dc.gov/mayor/news/release.asp?id=615&mon=200407>
- ① The MPDC's Family Liaison Specialist Unit provides outreach and support services to the survivors of homicide victims in DC. Learn more at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/units/fls.shtm>
- ① For information about other resources for crime victims in DC, go to:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/victims/victims.shtm>

### DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 7/16/04)

- 2004: 101
- 2003: 135
- % Change: -25.2%
- Closure Rate: 54.5% (55 closures)

Adult Arrests (week end. 7/10/04)

- Total: 937
- Drugs: 131
- Weapons: 13
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 11
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 33

Firearm Recoveries (as of 7/14/04)

- July: 65
- 2004 Total: 1,111

Traffic Fatalities (as of 7/16/04)

- 2004: 30
- 2003: 35
- % Change: -14.3%